

jurisdiction. As far as what goes on within Canada's jurisdiction, I have no proof to support the charges made last night and again today by the Hon. Member. If he has any evidence, I hope he will realize he has a duty to disclose it.

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• (1430)

[English]

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

PRELIMINARY DECISION ON CANADIAN FISH EXPORTS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Yesterday in response to a preliminary GATT ruling, the Minister then in British Columbia responded to the potential devastating effects of this decision on the fish processing industry by saying that he offered his assurances that "those jobs are not going to be jeopardized in any way".

I would like to ask the Minister, who uttered these encouraging words, does that mean if the final GATT decision is consistent with the preliminary decision that Canada will ignore it?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be unwise to speculate to that extent at this point. I can assure the Hon. Member that the provisions of Canada's participation in GATT allow for export controls for the purpose of preserving security of supply, for ensuring adequacy of supply to plants and for the conservation of the resource. Many member nations of GATT take advantage of such export restrictions.

CANADIAN POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will know that the security of supply and security of resource are one kind of argument but a lawyer could perhaps make short shrift of that if the ultimate purpose is actually to have processing jobs in Canada, something which is totally defensible.

Will the Minister clarify once again what he said? Having gone to GATT to defend our position, as the Government has indicated it is going to do, and if we lose that decision, will the Minister live up to his commitment to make sure those jobs are protected by not agreeing with the final decision if it goes against us?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, there are many ways of dealing with the question in due time, but I can assure the Hon. Member and all who are concerned about this issue that a Government which spends over \$100 million a year to manage and enhance the West Coast salmon and herring industry will not allow jobs, historically established, to be threatened by any such initiative.

Oral Questions

IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will know that it is one thing to say before a group of Canadian workers in their region that their jobs will be protected, but it is quite another thing to repeat that with equal assurance here in the House of Commons.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister for the third time, in order to live up to his commitment, will he make it very clear to the public of Canada, the Parliament of Canada, and not just to people in British Columbia to whom he was speaking yesterday, that he will implement his policy and not abide by that GATT decision if it goes against us?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party is so skeptical at this point. I have given my assurance that both within our obligations under GATT and the free trade agreement with the United States there are provisions to ensure that adequate supply for reasons of production and conservation are reflected and quite appropriate for a nation, and we will take such measures.

AMERICAN COMPLAINT AGAINST CANADIAN FISH EXPORT REGULATIONS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. During two full years of negotiations, the Government has had numerous opportunities to get the Americans to withdraw their complaint against our fish export regulations.

Why did the Minister ignore this American complaint during the negotiations? Why did she fail to protect those thousands of jobs in our fish processing plants, not only in British Columbia but also in Atlantic Canada? Was the Minister so stuck on appeasing Washington that she turned a blind eye to what was going on in Geneva?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as I have already explained at some length to the House, the proceeding in front of the GATT panel has nothing to do with the free trade agreement. I just wish that the Hon. Member could accept that.

Mr. Henderson: That is the problem with this free trade agreement they talk so much about. It has no protection for the fishery whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Crosbie: What nonsense.

MINISTERIAL ACTION

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to the Minister of Fisheries and the question asked by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. The Minister seemed to be wimping out in his answer, saying one thing in British Columbia and another thing here in Ottawa.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): That is absolutely false.